



# Motor Vehicle Division

## Arizona Driver License Manual





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# About This Manual

**T**his manual is designed to help you obtain a driver license or an instruction permit by explaining the Arizona motor vehicle laws without using technical language. It is not a proper legal authority and should not be relied upon in a court of law.

If you are applying for a motorcycle license, you will need to study the Motorcycle Operator Manual in addition to this manual. If you are applying for a Commercial Driver License, please refer to the Commercial Driver License Manual. All manuals are available by calling one of the numbers below.

## Questions?

(or if you have comments about this guide)

Phoenix (602) 255-0072

Tucson (520) 629-9808

elsewhere in Arizona 800-251-5866

(TDD service Phoenix 712-3222

elsewhere 800-324-5425)

[www.dot.state.az.us](http://www.dot.state.az.us)

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**Motor Vehicle Division**



# Roadway And Vehicle Knowledge

The flow of traffic on our streets and highways is controlled by various signal lights, traffic signs and pavement markings. You must fully understand their meaning in order to drive safely. There are also various requirements concerning vehicle equipment that you should know. This section provides information about these important basics.

## Signal Lights

Signal lights (red, yellow and green) are placed at many intersections to regulate the direction and flow of traffic. These traffic lights apply to pedestrians, bicycle and moped riders, as well as to motorists. You must obey the signals unless a police officer is directing traffic.

### Red

This signal means STOP. You must come to a complete stop before you reach the intersection, stop line or crosswalk. Remain stopped for as long as the light stays red. Where not prohibited by signs, a right turn may be made after coming to a complete stop, when motor traffic and pedestrian traffic are clear.

### Yellow

This signal means CAUTION. A steady yellow light is a warning that the light is about to turn red. If you have not entered the intersection, you should come to a safe stop. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely. Speeding up to "beat the light" is illegal and could cause an accident.

### Green

This signal means GO. You may go through an intersection in the direction indicated by the signal if the roadway is clear. Check right and left for oncoming traffic.

### Flashing Red Light

A flashing red light has the same meaning as a Stop sign. You must come to a full stop; then proceed with caution when the roadway is clear.

### Flashing Yellow Light

A flashing yellow light means you should slow down and proceed with caution if the roadway is clear.

### Red Arrow

A lighted red arrow means that you may not turn in the direction of the arrow. You must stop and wait for the green arrow to appear before making the turn.

### Yellow Arrow

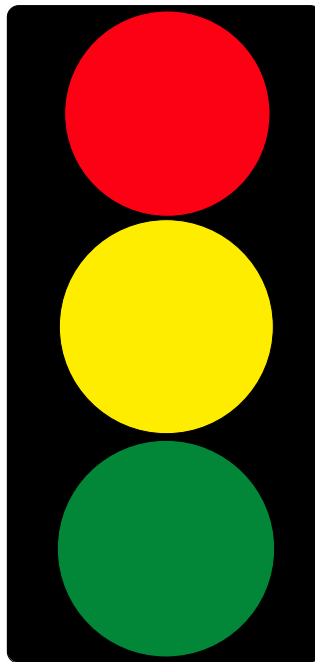
A yellow arrow warns that the light is about to change to red. If you have not entered the intersection, you must stop and wait for a green arrow. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue your turn and clear the intersection safely.

### Green Arrow

A green arrow appearing alone or with another signal light means that you may proceed in the direction of the arrow, if you are in the proper lane and the roadway is clear.

### Inoperative Signal Lights

When approaching an intersection with an inoperative traffic control signal, come to a complete stop before entering the intersection and then proceed when the roadway is clear. If two vehicles arrive at the intersection at about the same time, both must stop and the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the driver on the right.



## Traffic Signs

Traffic signs regulate traffic and provide important information.

The shape of a traffic sign can give you as much information about the meaning of a sign as the sign's color or wording. When visibility is poor, such as in heavy rain, dust storms, or fog, you may be able to make out only the shape of a particular sign.

### Regulatory

#### Rectangular

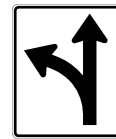
These signs regulate traffic and direct the driver's speed and direction.



No Right Turn



No "U" Turn



Turn Left or Go Straight

#### Octagon — eight sides

This shape is reserved for stop signs. You must come to a complete stop.



#### Triangle pointing down

This shape requires that you yield the right-of-way to cross traffic or to merging traffic.



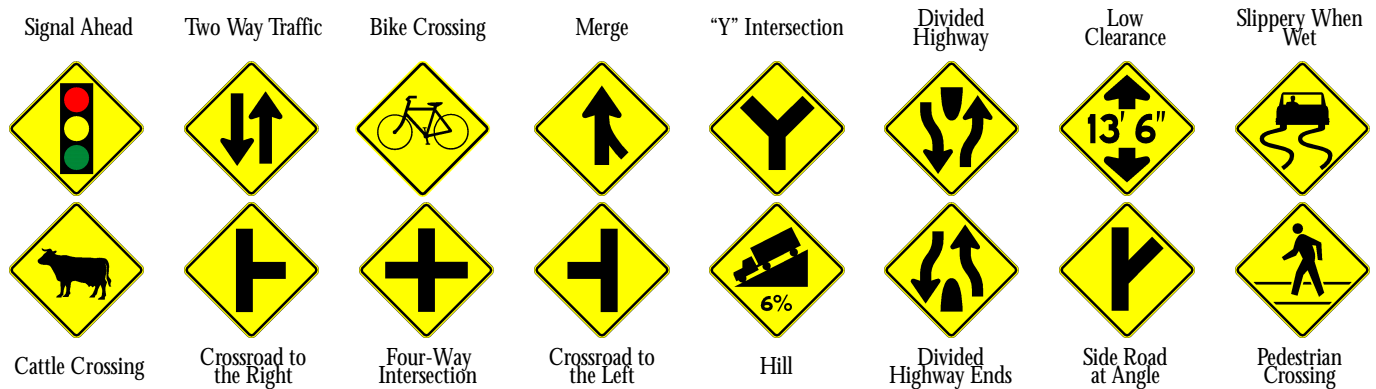


## Warning

The Federal Highway Administration permits the optional use of fluorescent yellow-green pedestrian, bicycle and school warning signs.

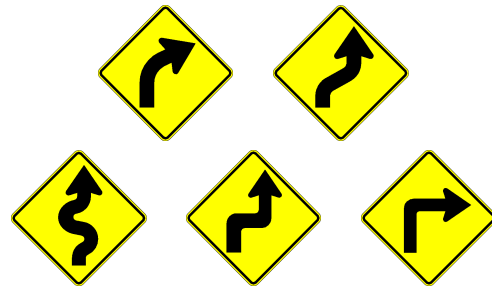
### Diamond

These signs are yellow. They warn of a possible danger ahead.



### Turn, Curve And Winding Road Signs

These signs are used to warn drivers of turns in the roadway. Below the signs may be small yellow square signs indicating the safe speed to drive through the curve.



### Pennant

This sign marks the beginning of a no passing zone.



### School Crossing Sign

This five-sided (pentagon) shape marks a school crossing. The speed limit is always 15 mph approaching a marked school crossing.



### Railroad Warning Sign

A circle-shaped sign provides a warning that you are approaching a railroad crossing.



## Railroad Crossing Sign

This sign marks the location of a railroad crossing. When you arrive at a railroad crossing, you must stop no closer than 15 feet from the nearest railroad track when you observe any of the following:

- Flashing red lights
- Lowered crossing gate
- Ringing bells
- Flagger warning of an approaching train



Do not cross the tracks until all signals have stopped and the crossing gate is up all the way. Do not drive around or under a gate that is lowered.

In addition to obeying the regulations above, the following rules will reduce your chances of becoming another fatality:

- Expect a train on any track at any time
- Do not get trapped on a railroad crossing
- Get out of your vehicle if it stalls on the tracks
- Look for a second train in the other direction
- Never race with a train
- Watch for vehicles such as buses and gasoline tankers, which must stop at railroad crossings
- When driving at night, be alert for railroad crossing warning signs that are not lighted

## Guide

### Highway Signs



Interstate Route Marker



U.S. Route Marker



State Route Marker

## Mile Posts

Arizona is one of the few states where all state highways have mileage markers. These reference "posts" are set 2 feet off the right shoulder and are about 1 mile apart.

Mile posts can be used to tell where you are located if you have an accident, have mechanical problems, or are out of gas. If you have to stop, note the route you are on and the approximate distance from a mile post.





## Roadway Construction Warning Devices

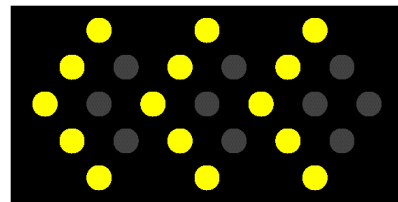
Alerting and controlling devices are used in road construction and in maintenance work areas to direct drivers or pedestrians safely, as well as to protect the safety of highway workers. Orange is the basic color for these devices. You must drive slowly and be especially alert at all construction sites. Always obey the posted speed limit.

**Construction and Maintenance Signs**  
Construction and maintenance signs are used to notify drivers of possible danger in or near work areas. Most signs used in highway and street work areas are diamond-shaped.



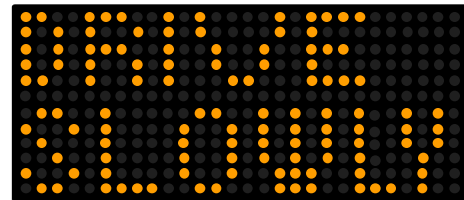
### Flashing Arrow Panels

Flashing arrow panels are used both day and night to give advance warning to drivers to move to the right or left into another lane. Slow down and prepare to merge in the direction of the arrow.



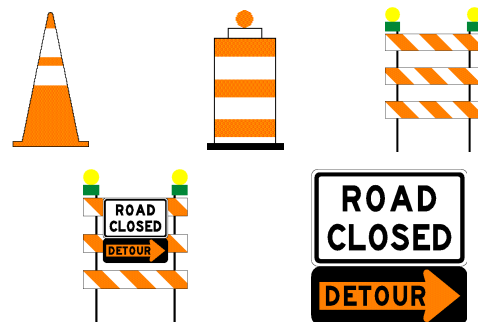
### Electronic Signs

Electronic message signs are used on some roadways to give you advance warning of construction zones, special traffic directions, road closures or even weather conditions.



### Cones, Drums, and Barricades

These devices are used to alert you and to guide you safely through the work area. At night, they may be equipped with warning lights. You must slow down when you drive through these areas.



### Flaggers

Flaggers are often used in road work zones to stop, slow or guide traffic safely through the area. Flaggers wear orange vests or jackets and use red flags or stop/slow panels to direct traffic through work zones.

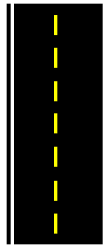


## Pavement Markings

Pavement markings are used to guide and warn drivers, as well as to regulate traffic. Markings may be either yellow or white and can appear in combinations. Each combination has a different meaning. Yellow center lines indicate that there is two-way traffic, flowing in both directions. White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction and to mark the edge of the roadway, stop lines and pedestrian crosswalks.

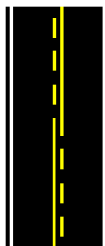
### Broken Yellow Lines

A broken yellow line indicates that passing on the left is permitted when the roadway is clear. Since you are facing oncoming traffic, overtaking and passing must be done with extreme caution.



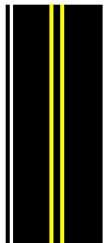
### Solid and Broken Yellow Lines

A broken yellow line alongside a solid yellow line indicates that passing is permitted only in one direction. If the broken yellow line is on your side, you may pass when the roadway ahead is clear. If the solid yellow line is on your side, you may not pass.



### Double Yellow Lines

Double solid yellow lines mean that passing is not allowed in either direction. You may not cross the lines unless you are making a left turn.

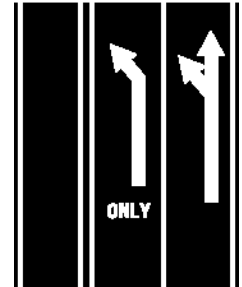


### Broken White Lines

Broken white lines separate lanes of traffic going in the same direction. These lines may be crossed with caution. (Remember to signal your intention to change lanes.)

## Solid White Lines

Solid white lines are used for turn lanes and to prevent lane changes near intersections. Arrows are often used with the white lines to indicate which turn may be made from the lane.



## Turn Lane Arrow

If you are traveling in a lane marked with a curved arrow and the word ONLY, you must turn in the direction of the arrow. If your lane is marked with both a curved and a straight arrow, you may turn in the direction of the arrow or you may go straight.

## Painted Curbs

A painted curb means that you must follow special rules to park there. The colors on the curbs mean:

### White

You may stop only long enough to pick up or drop off passengers.

### Yellow

You may stop only long enough to load or unload. Stay with your car.

### Red

You may not stop, stand or park.

## Vehicle Dimensions

### Maximum Width

A vehicle and its load cannot be wider than 96 inches (8 feet). On interstate highways and designated state highways, the maximum width is 102 inches (8 feet 6 inches).

### Maximum Height

The vehicle and its load cannot exceed a height of 13 feet 6 inches.





## Vehicle Equipment

### Brakes

Every motor vehicle must have brakes in good working condition. Cars and trucks must have both a foot brake and an emergency brake. Each set of brakes must apply to at least two wheels. A motorcycle must have at least one brake that may be applied by hand or foot. Trailers of 3000 lbs or more gross weight must be equipped with separate brakes.

### Safety Belts

Each front seat occupant of a motor vehicle manufactured after 1972 must have the seat belt properly fastened and adjusted while the vehicle is in motion (See Page 21).

### Child Safety Seats

A child less than 5 years old must be properly secured in a child passenger restraint system while being transported in a vehicle in this state (See Page 20).

### Head Restraints

Seat back, head restraints are designed to reduce the chance of whiplash injury in rear-end collisions. If they are adjustable, they should be positioned to fit against the back of your head and to line up with the middle of the ear.

### Muffler

Every motor vehicle must have a muffler in good working condition and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. It is against the law to use a muffler “cut-out,” bypass or similar device.

### Air Pollution Control

Motor vehicles of 1968 model year and newer must be equipped with an exhaust emissions system to help reduce air pollution. Also, the engine of every motor vehicle must be equipped to prevent the escape of excessive fumes and smoke (See Page 19).

### Windows and Windshields

Vehicles must have a windshield without cracks and windshield wipers that are in good working condi-

tion. Sun screening materials on windows and windshields are legal only within certain limits. Owners should make sure that the manufacturer or installer of the material complies with Arizona law.

### Rearview Mirrors

Every vehicle that is made or loaded so that the driver's view to the rear is blocked, must have at least one outside mirror that shows the view of the highway for at least 200 feet to the rear.

### Horns and Warning Devices

A working horn that can be heard for 200 feet is required on your vehicle. Emergency vehicles may have a siren, whistle or bell.

### Red Lights and Flashers

Flashing red warning lights are prohibited on the front of the vehicle, even those vehicles that are disabled, except on authorized emergency vehicles, school buses and snow removal equipment.

Hazard warning signal lights (emergency flashers) should be activated whenever your vehicle is stopped on the roadway or shoulder of the road.

## Basic Driving Knowledge

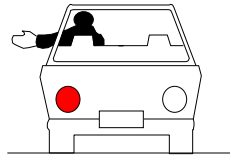
This section introduces the basics of driving: steering, signaling, turning, braking and stopping, right-of-way, speed limits, passing, backing and parking.

### Steering

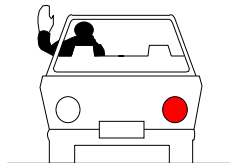
Many new drivers tend to turn the steering wheel too much because they are using a fender or part of the hood as a guide. The proper way to stay in your lane of travel is to look well ahead and make only slight steering corrections as needed. Only practice can teach you how to steer.

## Signaling

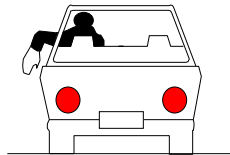
Other drivers expect you to keep doing what you are doing. Signaling lets them know you are going to do something different and gives them time to react to your move. Signaling does not give you the right-of-way. Turns may be indicated using electric turn signals, hand signals, or both. The law designates which lanes and positions you must use when turning, and requires you to signal at least 100 feet before you turn. The hand signals are shown here.



Left Turn



Right Turn



Stopping  
or Slowing  
Abruptly

You should always signal before you:

- Change lanes
- Turn at an intersection or into a driveway or alley
- Enter or leave a freeway
- Pull away from the curb
- Pull over to the side of the road
- Slow down or stop suddenly

Here are some other important signaling rules to follow:

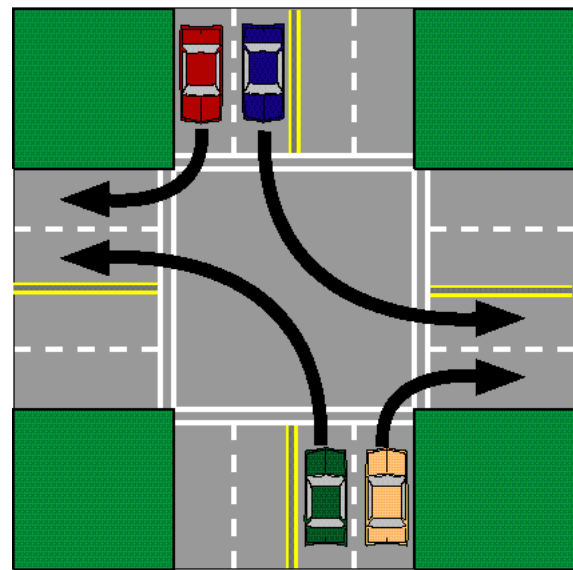
- Get in the habit of signaling every time you change direction. Signal even if you do not see anyone else around. It is the car you do not see, that is the most dangerous.
- Use both turn and hand signals in heavy traffic. A hand signal may be seen by drivers who are several cars back and cannot see your car signal lights.
- If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, do not signal until you are in the intersection. If you signal earlier, another driver may think you intend to turn at the intersection and might pull into your path.

## Turning

Rules for turning apply at all locations, even driveways and alleys, not just at intersections. Signal, reduce your speed and turn smoothly. As you turn, make sure to check for pedestrians, mopeds and bicycles.

### Right Turns

As you prepare to turn right, stay close to the right curb or edge of the road. Do not swing wide before or while turning.



### Right On Red

When making a right turn at a red light, you must first come to a complete stop before reaching the marked or unmarked crosswalk. Be sure to check for signs that may prohibit the turn.

Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists and of course, oncoming traffic. Unless signs direct you otherwise, turn into the right lane of the road you enter.

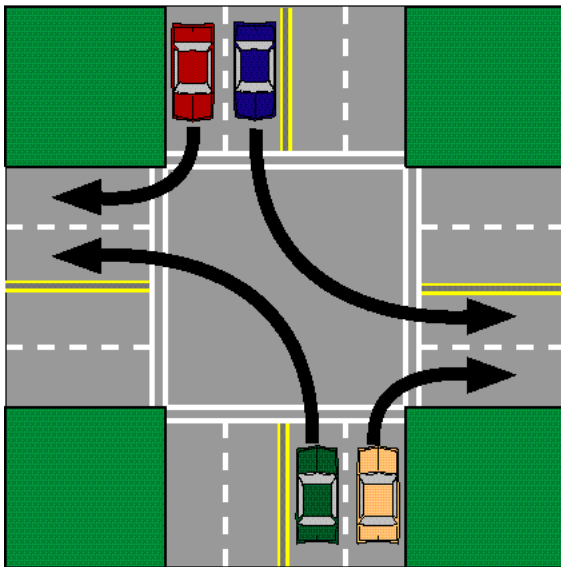


## Left Turns

On a two-way road, approach the turn with your car in the lane just to the right of the center line. Turn just to the left of the center point of the intersection. Enter the lane just to the right of the center line. This avoids conflict with other traffic making either right or left turns.

If a special lane for making left turns has been signed or marked, use that lane — do not turn left from any other lane.

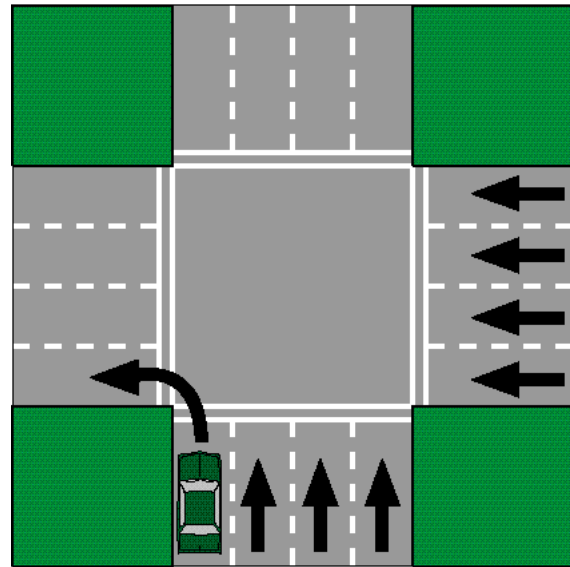
The following diagrams show you how to make left turns from or into one-way streets. In some areas, turns may be made from more than one lane. If this is allowed, signs and pavement markings will tell you. At some locations, turns may be prohibited by highway signs.



## Left Turn

### One-Way Road To One-Way Road

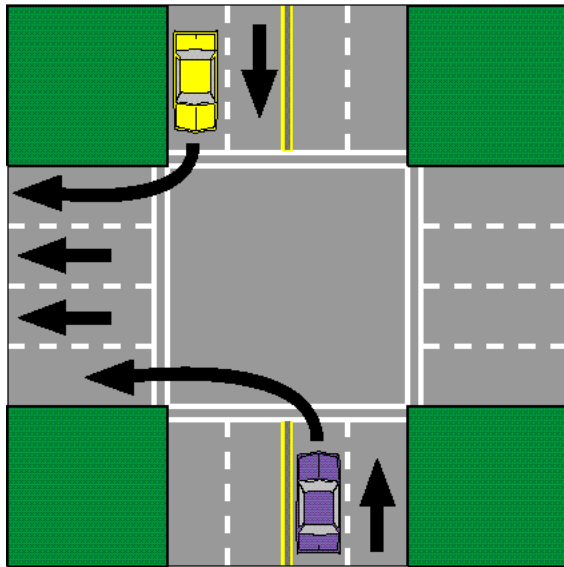
Approach with your car in the traffic lane nearest the left curb. Turn without swinging wide. Bring your car into the extreme left traffic lane on the road you are entering. This is the only left turn situation where, unless signs prohibit it, you may make the turn against a red light after stopping and yielding to traffic and pedestrians.



## Left Turn

### Two-Way Road To One-Way Road

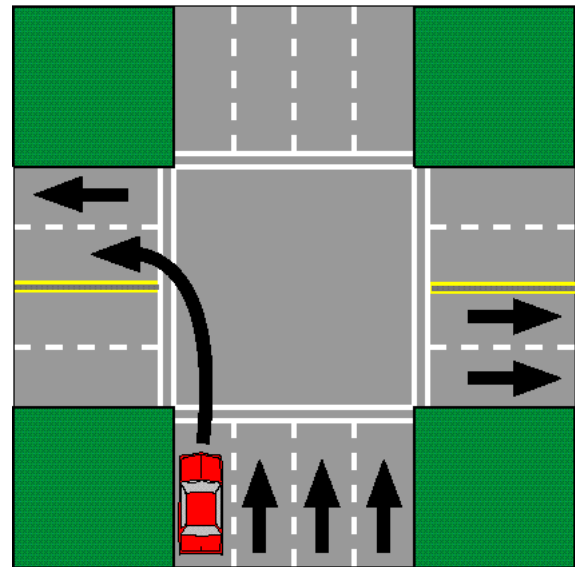
Approach the turn in the traffic lane just to the right of the center line. As you enter the intersection, turn into the extreme left lane of the road you are entering. (A right turn in the pattern also is shown.)



## Left Turn

### One-Way Road To Two-Way Road

Approach the intersection in the traffic lane closest to the left curb. Turn into the lane just to the right of the center line. Do not move to the right lane without checking traffic to your right and signaling for a lane change. This turn cannot be made against a red light.





## Braking And Stopping

It takes long distances to come to a safe, complete stop. Braking distance is directly related to:

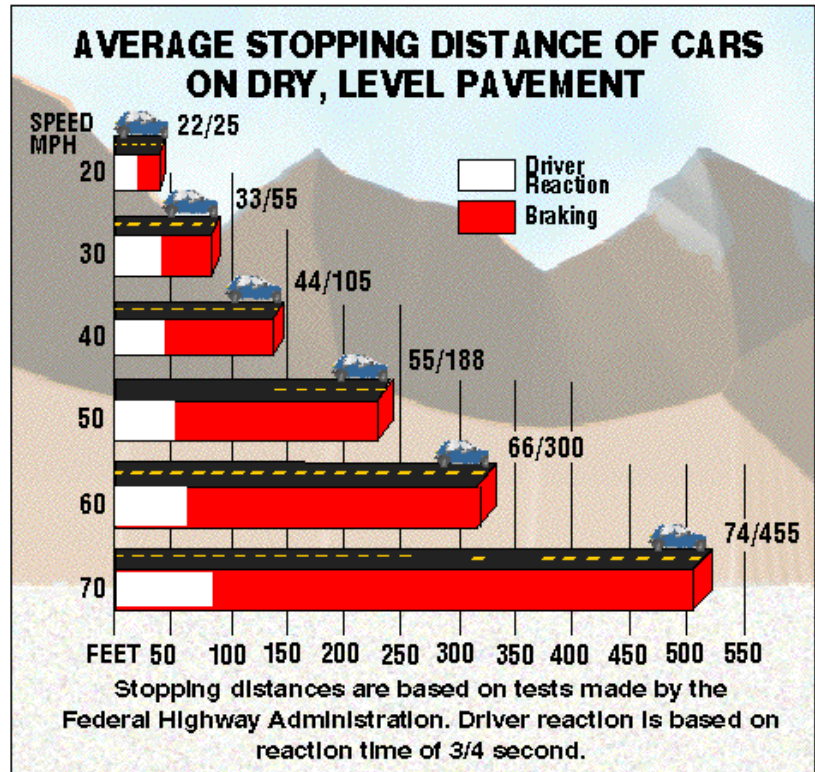
- Driver perception time (length of time it takes to see and recognize a dangerous situation)
- Driver reaction time (time from perception of danger to start of braking — the average is 0.75 seconds)
- Type and condition of the pavement
- Type and condition of the tires
- Vehicle design and condition of the shock absorbers
- Vehicle weight when loaded or towing
- Type and condition of the brakes
- Speed of the vehicle

The distance required to stop your vehicle is important in helping you choose a safe driving speed. This chart can be used as a rough guide, but your actual stopping distance will depend upon many of the above items.

When vehicles ahead do something unexpectedly, you will need time to react. You need to keep enough following distance between you and the vehicles ahead to avoid a collision if the traffic stops suddenly.

A 2-second following distance is good for most driving situations. However, there will be situations where a longer (3 to 6 seconds) following distance will be required:

- When driving on slippery roads, you should double your following distance to at least 4 seconds to allow for the extra distance needed to adjust your speed or to stop.
- When the driver behind you wishes to pass, reducing your speed will allow that driver to pass more quickly. The added



distance will make it easier for the passing motorist to pull back into the lane.

- When you are following a large vehicle, such as a tractor-trailer, that blocks your field of vision of the road ahead, you will need extra distance to see around the vehicle.

## Following Emergency Vehicles

You are not allowed to follow within 500 feet of fire vehicles or other emergency vehicles.



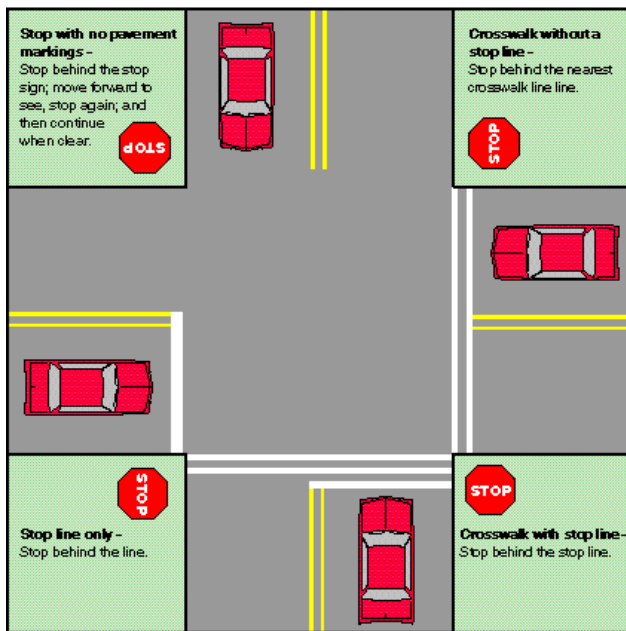


## Right-Of-Way

The law requires certain vehicles to yield the right-of-way to other vehicles. The law does not actually “give” the right-of-way to any particular motorist, it just states who must yield. No one is allowed to take the right-of-way if taking it means an accident may result.

## Controlled Intersections

You must obey the traffic signals and signs. Yield the right-of-way to other vehicles as directed. Do not assume it is safe to proceed just because you have the right-of-way. Check for traffic and pedestrians.

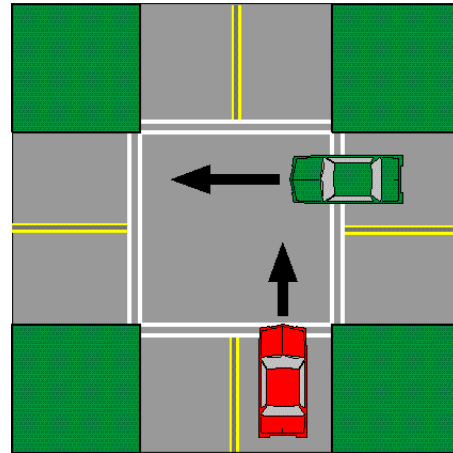


## Uncontrolled Intersections

If there are no traffic lights, stop signs or yield signs, you should yield to the first vehicle in the intersection.

If two vehicles arrive at the intersection at about the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right.

At a “T” intersection, the driver on the street which ends must yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the cross street.



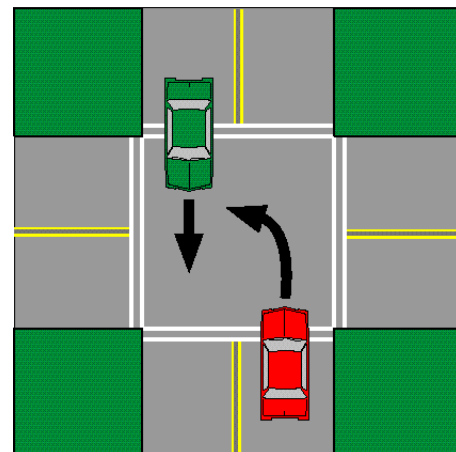
**Green vehicle has the right-of-way  
Red Vehicle must yield.**

## Alleys and Driveways

When entering the roadway from an alley or driveway, you must stop before reaching the sidewalk. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and approaching vehicles.

## Left Turn

When you are preparing to turn left, you must yield the right-of-way to any oncoming vehicle and pedestrian.



**Green vehicle has the right-of-way  
Red Vehicle must yield.**



## School Buses

When approaching a school bus that is picking up or dropping off passengers, you must come to a complete stop before reaching the bus. A school bus will have alternating flashing lights and a mechanical stop-sign arm extended while passengers are entering or leaving the bus. You must remain stopped until the school bus moves ahead or until the stop-sign arm and flashing lights are no longer shown. Look out for children crossing the road in front of, or behind the school bus.

You are not required to stop for a school bus on a divided roadway, when traveling in the opposite direction. A divided roadway is one in which the road is separated by physical barriers such as a fence, curbing or separation of the pavement. Roadway striping by itself does not constitute a physical separation of the roadway.

Caution: Motorists should exercise extreme care when in the vicinity of any stopped school bus, as a child may dart from the front or the rear of the bus.

## Emergency Vehicles

Always be alert for emergency vehicles, especially at intersections. Do not play your radio so loudly that you are unable to hear sirens. Whenever a police car, fire engine, ambulance or other emergency vehicle approaches using a siren, lights or other warning devices, you must yield the right-of-way. Drive at once to the right side of the road and stop until the vehicle has passed.

## Funerals

Drivers must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that is part of a funeral procession being led by a funeral escort vehicle flashing a red or a blue light.

## Pedestrians

You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the street in any marked or unmarked crosswalk. When the light turns green, you must still yield to pedestrians and vehicles in intersections. The law also

requires vehicles to come to a complete stop at any school crossing when the crosswalk is occupied by any person. In the interest of safety, if you see persons crossing any street, give them the right-of-way.

## Visually Impaired

The driver of a vehicle approaching a visually impaired pedestrian who is carrying a white or metallic cane, is using a guide dog or is assisted by a sighted person, must yield the right-of-way and take precautions to avoid injury to the pedestrian.

## Speed Limits

Vehicle speed is an important part of traffic safety. You must obey all speed regulations and be ready to adjust your speed quickly if necessary.

Elements such as road conditions, traffic flow and the number of accidents are used to determine the proper speed limits for roadways. You must obey all posted limits. The following speed limits must be observed when no limit is posted:

- 15 mph when approaching a school crossing
- 25 mph in any business or residential district
- 55 mph on open highways or city freeways
- 65 mph on designated open highways
- 75 mph on rural interstate highways

## Adjusting Speed to Conditions

The speed limits are set for the best driving conditions. When driving in bad weather, your speed should be reduced to a level that is reasonable.

Three guidelines are:

- When driving on wet roads, reduce your speed by at least one-third.
- When driving on roads with snow or ice, reduce your speed by at least one-half.
- When driving in bad weather, double the following distance from the vehicle in front of you.



## Impeding Traffic

Driving too slowly can be as dangerous as driving too fast. Remember to drive in the right lane and allow faster moving vehicles to pass whenever you are driving slower than traffic around you. If you become lost or disoriented, pull off the roadway instead of slowing your vehicle.

## Passing

When you want to pass a vehicle traveling in the same direction, pass on the left. Signal that you are about to change lanes. Make sure you have time and room to get all the way in front of the vehicle you are passing without creating danger for vehicles coming toward you. Move into the left lane and pass the vehicle. When you can see the front or headlights of the vehicle you passed in your rearview mirror, look over your shoulder to be sure the lane is clear, signal that you are changing lanes, then return to the lane on the right. This procedure also applies to passing slow-moving bicycles and mopeds.

When another vehicle comes up behind you and sounds its horn or flashes its lights, move to the right when safe and let it pass. Never speed up when another vehicle is passing you.

## Passing on the Right

Passing on the right is permitted only when it is safe and:

- The driver of the other vehicle is making a left turn (Never pass to the left of a driver who has signaled a left turn.)
- An open highway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of vehicles moving in the same direction as you are going
- You are in a business or residential district where the pavement is wide enough for two or more lanes of vehicles moving in the direction you are going
- You must never pass on the right by driving off the paved or main portion of the roadway.

## Do Not Pass

You must not pass when:

- Approaching a curve or the top of a hill where you cannot see ahead to be sure of safe passing
- Approaching within 100 feet of a street crossing
- Approaching within 100 feet of a railroad crossing
- Within 100 feet of a bridge, tunnel, or underpass where your view is blocked

## Backing

Backing is dangerous because it is hard for you to see behind your car. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back your car:

1. Check behind your car before you get in. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver's seat.
2. Place your arm on the back of the seat and turn around so that you can look directly through the rear window. Do not depend on your mirrors.
3. Back slowly. Your car is much harder to control and to stop while you are backing.

## Parking

When you park on a public roadway, you must be sure that you are not in the way of traffic, obstructing visibility or in an illegal parking zone.

## Parallel Parking

Your ability to judge distances while controlling the speed of your vehicle is the key to completing this maneuver. When parallel parking, be sure to continually check for oncoming traffic.

To parallel park correctly:

1. Check traffic behind you and signal that you are stopping.
2. Stop when you are alongside the forward car and your car's back bumper lines up with the back bumper of the parked vehicle. Leave approximately two feet between you and the forward car.



3. Shift into reverse. While looking over your right shoulder, back up slowly while turning the wheel sharply to the right.
4. When your front bumper passes the rear bumper of the forward car, turn the wheel sharply to the left. Keep backing until parallel to the curb.
5. Straighten the wheels and slowly pull forward.

## Emergency Parking

In the event it becomes necessary for you to leave your vehicle parked on a highway or street, follow these rules:

1. Pull onto the shoulder of the road as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, pull your vehicle as close to the curb as possible.
2. Set your parking brake, shift into park or leave the vehicle in gear, and turn off the engine.
3. Lock your vehicle.
4. Set out proper emergency signals.

## Parking on a Hill

When you park on a downhill grade, turn your wheels toward the curb and set your parking brake.

Downhill-  
Turn Wheels  
Toward Curb



If you park on an uphill grade, turn your wheels to the left, let your car roll back until the right front wheel rests against the curb and stops. If there is no curb, turn the wheels to the right so that the car will roll away from the center of the road in the event the brakes fail. Always set your parking brake.

Uphill with Curb-  
Turn Wheels Away  
From Curb



Uphill - No Curb  
Turn Wheels Toward  
Edge of Road



## Prohibited Parking

It is illegal to park:

- On a sidewalk
- In front of a private or public driveway
- Within the boundaries of an intersection
- On a crosswalk or within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- On any freeway or interstate highway (except for an emergency)
- In any area with signs prohibiting parking
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing
- On a bridge or within a tunnel
- In such a way that you create a hazard for other vehicles

## International Symbol of Access

This symbol, which appears on reserved parking signs, placards and license plates, is the international symbol of access for persons with physical disability. Parking spaces marked with this symbol are only to be used by vehicle displaying a valid placard or license plate with this symbol, and only when transporting the person who was issued the placard or plate.

It is illegal for anyone else to park in these spaces and it may result in a minimum fine of \$50.



# Driving Techniques

It is important for safety sake to obey traffic laws, abide by the rules of the road and drive defensively.

## City Driving

### One-Way Streets

If you will be traveling on a one-way street for several blocks, it is best to stay in the center lane. The left and right lanes will be used by turning vehicles.

### Reversible Lanes

Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are usually marked by double-dashed yellow lines. Before you start driving in them, check to see which lanes you can use at that time. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead.

<b>6-9 A.M.</b> <b>MON.-FRI.</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>
<b>4-6 P.M.</b> <b>MON.-FRI.</b>	<b>Thru Traffic</b>
<b>OTHER TIMES 2 WAY LEFT</b>	

### School Crossing Ahead

You may encounter school crossings almost anywhere. These areas will have the following signs and markings.



School Crossing Ahead



School Crossing

The maximum speed approaching a marked school crossing is 15 mph. Passing another vehicle in a school crossing is prohibited. There will often be a crossing guard assisting youngsters crossing the roadway. You must follow the instructions of the crossing guard, and you must come to a complete stop when any person is in the crosswalk.

## Sharing the Road With a Bike

Bicyclists must obey the same traffic laws as drivers of motor vehicles, and they have the right-of-way under the same conditions as motorists.

Motorists should be alert for bicyclists along the roadway, because cyclists are often difficult to see. Extra caution is necessary.

At night, you should dim your headlights for bicyclists.

Drivers should be prepared for a bicyclist swerving. Although bicyclists must ride with the flow of traffic and stay near the right side of the road, they can legally move left for several reasons, such as:

- Turning left
- Avoiding hazards
- Passing pedestrians or vehicles
- If the lane in which the person is operating a bicycle is too narrow for a bicycle and motor vehicle to travel safely side by side

Important rules for bicyclists:

- Do not carry more persons than the design of the bicycle permits
- Do not ride more than two side-by-side
- Ride as near to the right side of the road as possible
- Use proper hand signals (See Signaling on Page 32)
- Do not bicycle under the influence of drugs or alcohol — it is illegal
- When riding at night, have a white headlamp visible from 500 feet, and a rear reflector



Bike Crossing





## Sharing The Road With A Motorcycle

Motorcyclists are more vulnerable to injury than a car driver if involved in an accident. Most car/motorcycle accidents are the result of a car turning in front of a motorcycle; usually because the driver did not see the motorcycle. Watch for the unexpected and give the motorcycle its share of the road.

### Size

The small size of a motorcycle may make it hard to spot in traffic, and it may appear to be farther away and traveling slower than it actually is. Because it is difficult to judge the distance and speed, drivers need to pay close attention and take extra care.

### Lane Position

Because of the motorcycle's size, its position within a lane will change as traffic conditions change. Often this means riding in the left side of the lane to allow a better view of traffic and road conditions. However, as conditions change, the rider may move to the center or to the right side of the lane. These sideways movements sometimes occur suddenly to avoid hazards. Motorists need to be alert and to drive accordingly.

### Intersections

Intersections are the most likely places for car/motorcycle collisions, which are usually the result of a driver turning into the motorcycle's path. Do not assume the rider's intentions. A rider will move to one side not only to prepare for a turn, but also to avoid a hazard or to improve visibility.

Motorcycle turn signals do not automatically shut off and riders may forget to cancel them after a turn is completed. Make sure you know what the rider is doing before you move into its path.

### Passing

Motorcycles are allowed the full width of a lane in which to maneuver. Never crowd into the same lane as a motorcycle. Returning to the original lane too soon can force the rider to swerve into traffic or off the road.

## Freeway Driving

Freeways and interstate highways are designed to handle higher speed traffic safely. You need to be comfortable with driving at these speeds and with the special procedures discussed below before you attempt freeway driving.

### Entering a Freeway

The key to entering a freeway smoothly is to accelerate on the entrance ramp/lane to match the speed of freeway traffic in the right lane. Then, signal, check the traffic around you, and merge carefully.



Drivers on the freeway should signal and move left one lane to assist traffic trying to merge from the entrance ramp. Sometimes this does not happen, however, and it is up to you to adjust your speed to merge.

Stopping while entering a freeway is dangerous. If you must stop, signal the vehicle behind you. Be sure to leave enough room between you and the vehicle ahead of you on the entrance ramp, so if that vehicle stops, you can safely stop.

### Lane Use

The right lane is used for entering and exiting, and for slow traffic. The left lane is used by higher-speed traffic.

Avoid the right lane of a freeway during rush hour. This will leave room for vehicles entering and exiting.

Be alert for other vehicles attempting to merge into your lane, and use proper signals to let other drivers know if you are changing lanes. Do not exceed the posted speed limits. Avoid "tailgating" (following the car ahead of you too closely).

## Restrictions

On the freeway, you may not:

- Drive over or across any dividing section or separation
- Make a U-turn
- Change lanes without signaling
- Drive onto the freeway, except at an on-ramp
- Park or stop on the freeway, except in specially provided areas (Parking on the shoulder of the freeway is prohibited, except in case of emergency.)
- Back up if you miss an exit (You must go on to the next exit.)
- Drive in any High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane unless there are 2 or more persons in the vehicle, or you have an Alternative Fuel license plate or you are operating a motorcycle or bus (These lanes have no restrictions on weekends and holidays and between 9am-3pm and 7pm-6am Monday-Friday.)
- Drive over or park in any part of a gore area. This is the area between a through roadway and an entrance or exit ramp.

## Special Situations on the Freeway

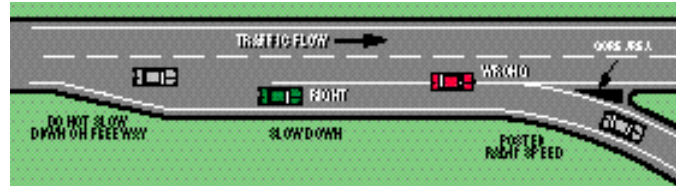
If you need assistance, pull over onto the right shoulder as far as possible. Avoid stopping your vehicle on or near freeway ramps.

To signal for assistance on the freeway, turn on your emergency flashers and tie a white handkerchief or scarf to the radio antenna, or raise the hood of the car. To signal after dark, turn on your inside dome light and/or set out flares or portable warning signals. Wait for help. Do not walk along the freeway.

While driving on the freeway, watch for disabled vehicles. If you are the first motorist to approach a disabled vehicle, reduce your speed and turn on your emergency flashers; then proceed around the disabled vehicle with caution.

## Exiting the Freeway

Use your signals at least one-half mile before your



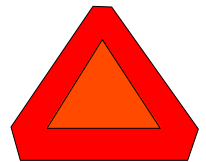
exit. Most freeways will have deceleration lanes to assist you in your exit. Use proper braking to allow for a smooth exit. Be sure to maintain adequate space (space cushion) between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead when exiting in heavy traffic.

## Driving The Open Road

Driving on empty rural highways can be just as dangerous as driving in heavy city traffic. It is easy to relax your attention...and suddenly come upon a dangerous surprise. Animals in the road, slow-moving farm equipment just over the crest of a hill or a low spot covered with water are not unusual hazards in rural driving. Stay alert, watch for warning signs, and slow down when approaching curves or hills that block your view of the roadway ahead.

## Slow Moving Vehicles

Farm machinery and other slow-moving vehicles can be particularly hazardous. Be sure to maintain a safe following distance that provides an adequate field of vision. Farm machinery usually travels at 25 mph or less, may take up more than one lane of the road, and may not have signals. To make a wide turn, operators of farm machinery may first pull to the left, then turn to the right.



When you see this symbol on the back of a vehicle ahead, it is a warning to slow down. The vehicle with the sign cannot travel faster than 25 mph.

Do not become impatient if you find yourself behind one of these slow vehicles. It has the legal right to be there.

## Sharing The Road With A Truck

Here are some suggestions from professional truck drivers:



## Passing

- When passing a truck, first check to your front and rear, and move into the passing lane only if it is clear and you are in a legal passing zone. Let the truck driver know you are passing by blinking your headlights, especially at night. The driver will make it easier for you by staying to the far side of the lane.
- On a level highway, it takes only 3 to 5 seconds longer to pass a truck than a car. On an upgrade, a truck often loses speed, so it is easier to pass than a car. On a downgrade, the truck's momentum will cause it to go faster, so you may need to increase your speed.
- Complete your pass as quickly as possible, and do not stay alongside the other vehicle.
- If the driver blinks the truck's lights after you pass, it's a signal that it is clear to pull back into the lane. Be sure to move back only when you can see the front of the truck in your rear-view mirror. After you pass a truck, maintain your speed.
- When a truck passes you, you can help the truck driver by keeping to the far side of your lane. You will make it easier for the truck driver if you reduce speed slightly. In any event, do not speed up while the truck is passing. After passing, the truck driver will signal to let you know that the truck will be returning to your lane.
- When you meet a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far as possible to the side to avoid a sideswipe accident and to reduce the wind turbulence between the two vehicles. Remember that turbulence pushes vehicles apart. It does not pull them together.

## Following a Truck

- If you are following a truck, stay out of its "blind spot" to the rear. Avoid following too closely. Position your vehicle so that you can see the truck's

side mirrors. Then you will have a good view of the road ahead and the truck driver can give you plenty of warning for a stop or a turn. You will have more time to react and make a safe stop.

- When you follow a truck at night, always dim your headlights. Bright lights from a vehicle behind will blind the truck driver when they reflect off the truck's large side mirrors.
- If you are stopped behind a truck on an upgrade, leave space in case the truck drifts back slightly when it starts to move. Also, keep to the left in your lane so the driver can see that you are stopped behind the truck.

## Right Turns

- Pay close attention to truck turn signals. Trucks make wide right turns and sometimes must leave an open space to the right just before the turn.
- To avoid an accident, do not pass a truck on the right if there is any possibility that it might make a right turn.

## Night Driving

Reduced visibility, glare from oncoming headlights, and unseen objects in the road all combine to make night driving hazardous. In the late afternoon, as soon as the light begins to fade, turn on your headlights — not parking lights — to make your vehicle more visible to others. You must use headlights from sunset to sunrise, but be aware that other drivers may not have turned on their headlights.

Headlights are a poor substitute for daylight. Never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see ahead with your lights. Use low beams when driving on city or town streets. Use high beams on highways when no other vehicle is coming toward you within 500 feet. Switch to low beams whenever you meet oncoming traffic to avoid blinding the other driver. When following another car, use low beams whenever you are within 200 feet.



If the high beams of an oncoming car are not dimmed, avoid looking directly at the bright lights. Glance toward the right side of the road, then look ahead to determine the position of the other vehicle. Keep doing this until you have passed the other vehicle.

Do not become a victim of “Highway Hypnosis” or “White Line Fever” (a trance-like state that can occur during a long period of highway driving). Anytime you become tired when traveling, pull over and rest. Use the radio and fresh air to ward off highway hypnosis. Stop every hour to walk and exercise. This will help keep you alert.

## Emergencies

Skids, tire blowouts and mechanical failures can happen at any time. You need to be prepared to handle them.

Some of the most common driving problems are discussed below. By following the suggestions, you should be able to deal with most emergency situations.

### Brake Failure

1. Pump the brakes rapidly. This may build up enough pressure to stop your vehicle.
2. If pumping the brakes does not work, slowly apply the parking brake. Be sure to hold the brake release so you can ease off the brake if the rear wheels lock and the car begins to skid.
3. Shift to low gear and look for a place to stop.

Do not pump anti-lock brakes.

### Skid Recovery

Driving on a slippery roadway surface or braking too sharply can throw your vehicle into a skid. When this occurs, there are several actions to take:

1. Do not press on the brake any further; this will only make the skid worse.

2. Turn the wheel quickly in the direction you want your vehicle to follow (in the direction of the skid).
3. As the car begins to straighten out, turn the wheel quickly back the other way, so your vehicle does not skid in the opposite direction.
4. Continue turning the wheel back and forth as necessary until your vehicle straightens to its normal path.

### Tire Blowout

1. Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep your vehicle going straight
2. Ease off the gas pedal; do not apply the brakes
3. Let the vehicle slow down until it is almost stopped
4. Just before your vehicle stops, pull off the roadway and apply the brakes

### Fire

- Fires are usually caused by a short circuit in the electrical system. If you have a fire, pull quickly off the road, shut off the ignition to cut electrical power and get all passengers away from the car.
- Always carry a fire extinguisher. Do not use water if gasoline is burning since this will spread the flames. If you do not have a fire extinguisher, a heavy blanket, a heavy coat or sand can help to smother the flames.
- Fires are dangerous. If you have any indication that the fire may be beyond your control, get away from the vehicle.

### Overheating

Steam coming from under your hood may mean that your cooling system has overheated. You should:

1. Pull to the side of the road and turn off your engine immediately.
2. Raise the hood but do not open the radiator cap. Opening the radiator cap while the engine is hot may allow steam to escape and cause severe burns.

Driving a car with an overheated cooling system can ruin the engine. Most cooling problems are easily fixed by skilled mechanics.



Carry extra water in your car to add to your radiator if the engine overheats. Never attempt to add water while the engine is hot! Add water only after the engine has cooled.

### Power Steering Failure

(Example: Your engine dies as you pull around a corner.)

1. Pull on the wheel with both hands to complete the turn and steer to the right side of the road.
2. Stop the car; push the brakes extra hard if your vehicle has power brakes.
3. Shift to neutral and try to restart the engine.

### Headlight Failure

1. Try the high beam/low beam switch. This may restore normal function.
2. Turn the headlight switch on and off several times.
3. If neither of these steps works, put on the parking lights, emergency flashers or turn signals; pull to the side of the road and stop.

### Accelerator Sticks

1. Keep your eyes on the road and shift quickly to neutral.
2. Pull off the road as quickly as you can.
3. Bring your car to a stop and turn off the engine.

### Collisions

If you are stopped at a traffic light or stop sign and another vehicle is approaching you from behind at a high rate of speed, you should:

1. If possible, pull your vehicle forward in an effort to give the approaching vehicle more room to stop.
2. If the accident cannot be avoided, brace yourself between the steering wheel and the back of the seat and release your brake an instant before impact. This will help to lessen the impact.

If you are in danger from a potential head-on collision:

1. Reduce your speed and flash your headlights in an effort to warn the other driver. Using your horn might also be effective.
2. Head for the shoulder of the road, even if you must hit a fence or go through bushes.
3. If you cannot avoid the collision, try to maneuver your vehicle in such a way as to lessen the severity of impact.

Always wear your safety belts. This is the best thing you can do to protect yourself from injury in the event of a collision.

### Accident Reports

If you are involved in an accident, you are to remain at the scene of the accident to provide assistance to any person injured and to exchange information with the other drivers. You should provide:

- Driver license number
- Name and address
- Insurance company name and policy number
- Information on witnesses of the accident
- License plate numbers

If anyone was injured, you are also required to immediately file a report with the police.

### Assisting at the Scene of an Accident

If you are one of the first persons to come upon the scene of an accident:

- Pull your vehicle off the road
- Turn off the ignition of vehicles involved in the accident
- Do not smoke
- Give as much assistance as possible to those who may have been injured. However, do not move injured persons, unless there is danger of fire.





- Notify emergency officials — call 911
- Do not stand or walk in traffic lanes
- Ask others who have stopped, to warn the approaching traffic

### **Recommended Emergency Equipment**

- Blankets
- Gloves
- Maps
- First Aid Kit
- Sunglasses
- Food
- Can Opener
- Tire Chains
- Gasoline Can
- Rope
- Water Containers
- Electrical Tape
- Flares
- Jumper Cables
- Flashlight
- Rags
- Mirror
- Motor Oil
- Fire Extinguisher
- Notepad and Pencil
- Jack, Lug Wrench and Spare Tire
- Hand tools (screwdriver, pliers, wrenches)

### **Weather Conditions**

Driving becomes more difficult when your ability to see is reduced by bad weather or when the road surface is covered with rain, snow or ice. Reduced visibility and traction problems often occur at the same time.

Remember that changes in road and weather conditions will reduce your time to react and that those conditions will affect the way your car han-

dles. You must be ready to respond. The first rule is to slow down to make up for reduced visibility and reaction time in any kind of weather.

#### **Sun Glare**

Bright sunlight in the early morning or late afternoon creates a glare when driving into the sun. Glare can be reduced by wearing sunglasses, keeping windows clean and using sun visors. If the sun is behind you, oncoming drivers may have the glare problem. They may not be able to see your signals or your car.

#### **Wind**

Strong winds, especially crosswinds, can make it more difficult for you to control your vehicle. Wind is very dangerous if you are driving a camper or large recreational vehicle, or if you are towing a trailer. Lightweight vehicles are also more difficult to control in strong winds.

To gain more control over your vehicle in a strong wind, slow down. If you are approaching an open space after driving in a protected area, be alert for crosswinds that will push you to the side or middle of the road. If you are pulling a trailer, the wind may cause your vehicle to sway. Be ready to make necessary steering corrections.

When you meet large trucks or buses, you may also have to make steering corrections because of the gusts of wind these vehicles create. If you are pulling a trailer, wind currents can cause your vehicle to jackknife.

When a truck or bus is passing you on the left, move as far as possible to the right of your lane and slow down. As the vehicle passes, accelerate slowly to keep the trailer pulling in a straight path.

If you are driving into a strong head wind, you may need to accelerate more, and steering will be more difficult. A tailwind will increase your speed, so you will have to decelerate and begin braking earlier to stop.



## Dust

Summer dust storms are common in Arizona and can, at times, reduce a driver's visibility to zero. You should tune your radio to a local radio station for up-to-the-minute weather and road condition reports.

If you encounter a severe dust storm:

1. Reduce your speed immediately
2. Drive carefully off the highway
3. Stop as far to the right as possible
4. Turn off your lights
5. Wait until the dust storm has passed

## Rain

Driving in heavy rain can be hazardous, especially if you also encounter gusty wind conditions, such as in a thunderstorm. Vehicles to the rear and in blind spots are especially difficult to see. Wait a short time after the rain begins before using your wipers. The blades may cause smearing if you have a dirty windshield. You should slow down to increase the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead to at least 4 seconds. Be extra careful during the 30 minutes after rain begins; grime and oil on the road surface mix with water and make the road slippery.

Hydroplaning may occur during rainstorms. In a heavy rain, your tires can ride on a film of water, and at 50 mph your tires can lose all contact with the road. Underinflated, worn, or bald tires lose contact with the road at much lower speeds. A slight change of direction or gust of wind could throw your vehicle into a skid. The best way to prevent hydroplaning is to slow down. If your car does hydroplane:

- Take your foot off the accelerator
- Do not brake
- Avoid steering changes (if possible)
- Hold the wheel firmly until your tires grip the road again

Heavy rain frequently causes "flash floods" in Arizona washes. Do not cross flooded washes. Water can stall

your engine, hide potholes and can carry your vehicle downstream. Estimate the depth of the water by looking at parked cars or other objects along the road; watch what other vehicles are doing. Two vehicles should not meet in deep water; one should go entirely through before another starts from the other direction. This reduces the possibility of stalling caused by waves of water. You may be charged for emergency response expenses, if you or your vehicle needs to be removed from a flooded road.

Driving through water must be done at a slow and steady speed. Applying the brakes gently with your left foot may help keep them dry. Check your brakes after leaving the water to see if they will stop the car. If the brakes are wet, they may suddenly grab or pull to one side. Dry them by accelerating slowly while gently holding down the brake pedal.

## Fog

Fog reflects light and can reflect your own headlights into your eyes. When driving in fog, use low beams only and look for road edge markings to guide you. Even light fog reduces visibility and your ability to judge distance, so it is very important to slow down. Since conditions may change from moment to moment as you pass through areas of even thicker fog, you should adjust your speed and be prepared for emergency maneuvers. If necessary, pull off the road and turn your headlights off; then stay there until the fog lifts.

## Snow and Ice

Snow limits visibility, so turning on your headlights is necessary to see and to be seen. Often, snow will completely cover lane markings. Drivers may tend to move away from the edge of the road, thus passing closer to each other. Snow or ice between your tires and the road greatly reduces your traction and increases the distance you need to stop by 5 to 6 seconds. On slippery surfaces, you have the most trac-



tion and control when the front tires are rolling; therefore, your vehicle will respond better to steering than to braking.

If you decide to brake on ice or other slippery surfaces, apply the brakes gently, increasing the pressure as you feel the tires grip the road. Do not brake to the point that the wheels lock. If the wheels should lock, ease slightly off the brakes, but do not release them completely. This action may unlock them without losing brake power entirely. Then apply the brakes and ease off again, repeating the process.

Here are some other suggestions for safe winter driving:

- Before you start driving, clear snow or ice from all windows and lights so you can see and be seen.
- Equip your car with snow tires or chains to help prevent skidding and reduce stopping distances.
- Drive gently; do not change speed or direction suddenly.
- Slow down before stopping or turning. Driving on packed snow is much like driving on ice.
- Watch for ice on bridges and in shady areas. Bridge surfaces freeze before other road surfaces.

## Defensive Driving

“Defensive Driving” means being constantly aware of the driving conditions, planning ahead, anticipating dangers and taking the right action so as not to come in contact with any obstacle or other vehicle.

All of us want to avoid collisions that result in personal injury or even death. But, even when there is no personal injury, a collision means inconvenience and auto repair costs. It may also result in a court appearance and fines, as well as

increased insurance rates. You have a great financial stake in your own good driving record. Driving defensively will help protect your life and your driving record.

## Attitude and Awareness

Courtesy and consideration toward others are the most important driving attitudes you can develop. They are the key to safe driving.

Concentration and alertness are other important elements. You must develop the habit of keeping your mind on driving. The driver seat is no place for daydreaming, window shopping, ego building, or worrying. Driving when you are suffering from extreme fatigue or emotional distress can be just as dangerous as driving drunk.

## Foresight

In driving terms, foresight means being able to size up traffic situations as quickly as possible and being prepared to take corrective action. Safe driving requires exercising good judgment and recognizing the proper choices to make in any given traffic situation.

- Suppose you are driving down a steep hill; you apply your brake, but your vehicle does not decrease in speed. Should you pump the brake? Shift to a lower gear? Apply the emergency brake? Run into something?
- Perhaps you see a driver traveling in the wrong direction on a one-way street. Should you honk the horn? Stop? Flash your lights? Move to another lane?
- Maybe you are driving on a freeway and suddenly you come upon a five-car pileup. Do you leave the scene and call for help? Try to give medical attention to those with injuries? Set up flares at the accident scene?

Any of these choices could be the right thing to do.



It all depends on how you evaluate your driving situation and the existing conditions.

You will be constantly making decisions every mile you drive. There is a right way to make these decisions. It is known as defensive driving.

## Knowledge and Experience

The beginning driver should learn through instruction, observation and practice. If you are not enrolled in a driver training program, ask an experienced, skilled, licensed driver for help. After you obtain your instruction permit, practice starting, stopping and vehicle control in a parking lot or other open area with little traffic. Practice will sharpen your basic skills, as well as build your confidence.

Experienced drivers, on the other hand, often face the problems of carelessness, overconfidence and bad driving habits that develop over time. Changes have taken place in cars and trucks and in driving rules and techniques. The amount of traffic is constantly increasing. Your ability to adjust and adapt to these changes will determine how safe a driver you really are. Your knowledge should include recognition of the hazards of driving and how to protect yourself.

Skill is more than eye/hand/foot coordination. It is a well rehearsed driving strategy, which involves anticipation, reaction and the constant changing of the space between your vehicle and other vehicles. You must continually strive for improvement. Improvement can be measured in your elimination of risk-taking, your adherence to speed limits and your ability to take corrective action when necessary.

## Scanning

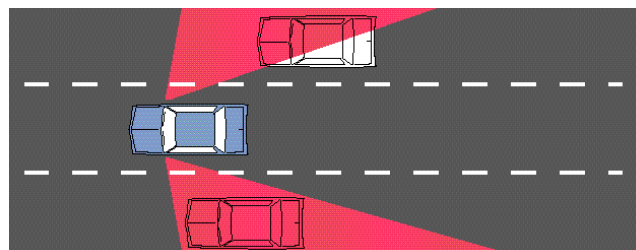
Most of what you do as a defensive driver is in response to what you see while driving. Avoid a fixed stare. Keep your eyes moving and learn to “read” the

road. To avoid the need for last minute decision-making, look ahead for a distance of about one city block. Whenever you reach a place in the road where other cars, people or animals may cross your path, look to both sides to be sure the way is clear. These trouble spots include intersections, crosswalks, shopping centers, construction areas and playgrounds.

When entering an intersection, be sure to check both left and right before proceeding. By frequently checking the traffic behind you, you will know when someone is tailgating or moving up too quickly. Check your rearview mirror often for the position of traffic behind you. When changing lanes, use your side mirrors and turn your head, to be sure that it is safe to proceed with the lane change. By knowing the speed and position of traffic on all four sides of your vehicle, you will be better able to make decisions quickly and safely.

## Blind Spots

Blind spots are areas on the left and right sides of your vehicle that are not visible in your mirror. If your vehicle does not have a right side view mirror, the right blind spot will be larger than the one on the left. Other blind spots can occur when vehicles are parked too close to an intersection or when bushes, trees and buildings block your view. In sit-



uations like these, inch your vehicle forward until you have a clear view. Then proceed when the way is clear.



Avoid driving in someone else's blind spot. This can be just as dangerous as not checking your own. Speed up or drop back, but never stay for an extended time in a blind spot area. Make sure your vehicle can be seen by other drivers.

Do not rely on your mirrors alone to see other vehicles. Turn your head quickly to see if the way is clear.

## Communicating

Communicating means clearly showing other drivers and pedestrians what you plan to do early enough to avoid a collision. Any time you plan to change directions, use your turn signals — whether you are changing lanes, turning at an intersection, entering a freeway, pulling away from a curb or pulling off to the side of the road. Develop the habit of using your turn signals even when you do not see other vehicles on the road. The vehicle you do not see is the most dangerous one.

Here are some rules to follow:

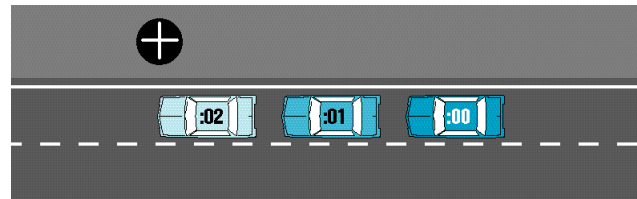
- Signal at least 4 seconds before you turn so other drivers will have time to react.
- If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, do not signal until you are in the intersection. Drivers in the intersection may pull out in front of you.
- After you complete your move, be sure your turn signal is off.

## The Space Cushion

The space between you and other vehicles gives you (and the other drivers) time to react in emergencies and avoid collisions. Create a space cushion around you by staying in the middle of your lane. Make sure there is enough room ahead and behind to pass or stop safely.

When sharing a lane with a bicycle, try to allow 2 to 4 feet for clearance between you and the bicycle. Moderate your speed. At high speeds, your vehicle may cause a gust of wind that could knock the bicyclist to the ground. Be alert for the bicycle swerving.

Leave enough space between you and the car ahead of you to allow for a sudden stop. At high speeds, the distance your vehicle travels while you are reacting to a problem is greater — and your margin for error is less. If you are following too closely, you may not be able to stop in time.



At any speed, you can use the 2-second rule to determine if you have enough cushion between you and the vehicle you are following.

You can help the driver behind you maintain a safe following distance by driving at a constant speed and signaling in advance whenever you are slowing or stopping. After all, you know what you are going to do, but the other driver does not.

If another driver follows you too closely, move to another lane if there is room, or when the road ahead is clear, gradually slow down and move to the right. These actions should encourage the tailgater to pass you.

Remember, what you do can affect the driver behind you, especially if you must stop suddenly.

## Compromise

Another important defensive driving skill is compromise. When you cannot separate risks, and you must deal with two or more at the same time, compromise by giving the most room to either the greatest or most likely danger. For example, suppose you are driving on a two-lane street with oncoming cars to your left and a child riding a bike to your right. The child is the most likely to move suddenly, so you need a larger space cushion to the right. In this case, moving closer to the center line is the correct compromise.





# Driver Safety

## Health

Your physical, mental and emotional conditions outweigh any other potential problems you will face on the road. Even a simple headache or cold could affect your ability to drive safely. Be as objective as possible about your fitness to drive. Postpone your trip or have someone else drive if you are ill.

Drugs can affect your ability to drive safely. Many contain chemicals that can affect your alertness and coordination, and they may also cause drowsiness and dizziness. Read the label before taking any drug or medicine. Call your physician for possible side effects of the medication and the impact it might have on your driving.

## Emotions

You cannot drive well if you are angry, excited, worried or depressed. Anger is the emotion that probably occurs most often while driving, especially in heavy traffic. Do not allow your emotions to influence the decisions you must make while driving. Giving your emotions a foothold over your judgment will result in driving errors.

## Fatigue

If you find yourself feeling sleepy while driving, it is already past the time to get off the road. Fatigue dulls the mind and reduces your ability to act quickly and correctly. Rest is the only safe remedy. To avoid fatigue, follow these guidelines:

- Get plenty of rest before you start a long trip
- Try not to drive late at night
- Take frequent rest stops, get out of the vehicle and exercise, breathe deeply and move around
- Do not stare straight ahead, keep your eyes moving, and check your mirrors and dash gauges
- Roll down the windows to get fresh air, sing along with the radio, or chew gum

- If possible, change drivers frequently

## Distractions

Minor distractions can take your attention away from driving. There is a potential accident in every minor distraction. It is your responsibility to pay full attention to your driving. Avoid minor distractions such as:

- Searching for an item dropped on the seat
- Reaching across the dash into the glove compartment
- Trying to get out of a sweater or jacket, or fasten a safety belt while driving
- Controlling children
- Reading a road map
- Using a phone

## Cell Phones

It is best to pull off the road safely and stop if you are going to use a cellular telephone. Trying to dial, answer or talk on a phone while driving can divert your attention from your driving and can be dangerous.

## Drinking And Driving

Alcohol and driving do not mix. The driver who drinks, causes accidents, injuries and death.

Driving is a serious business that requires the ultimate in skill and judgment — both of which are diminished through consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol seriously reduces your reflexes, physical control over the vehicle and ability to recognize dangerous situations.

These combined physical effects make the drinking driver, a dangerous driver. Even when you may not appear or feel drunk, alcohol produces a false sense of confidence in your driving ability.

***Do Not Drink and Drive!***



## Driver Improvement

Along with your Arizona driver license comes the obligation to drive responsibly. “Driver Improvement” refers to the process of identifying those who are not driving responsibly and either correcting their behavior or removing their privilege to drive in Arizona.

## Revocation

Revocation is the removal of your privilege to drive. It is required by law, upon conviction of certain driving offenses. Once your revocation period has ended, your driving privileges will remain revoked until an investigation is completed. The investigation is to determine that all withdrawal actions have ended, and that all statutory requirements are met. You will be required to pay the appropriate application fee and a \$20 reinstatement fee, and you may be required to file a Certificate of Insurance (commonly known as an SR-22). A written, vision and road test may be required.

Your driving privilege will be revoked for:

- Driving a vehicle under the influence of any drug
- Any homicide or aggravated assault involving use of a vehicle
- Any felony in which a vehicle is used
- Perjury relating to the ownership or operation of a vehicle
- Failure to stop and render aid at the site, if you are involved in a traffic accident
- Drive-by shooting
- Aggravated DUI

Your driving privilege will be revoked for two or more convictions for:

- Driving while Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI)

- Reckless driving
- Racing on the highways

In addition, your driving privilege may be revoked for:

- Failure to take and pass a required driving retest
- Medically, psychologically or physically incapable of operating a motor vehicle or continued operation of a motor vehicle which would endanger the public health, safety and welfare

## Suspension and Traffic School

Suspension is the temporary removal of your driving privilege. It is an action that may be taken after a review of your driving record. The suspension remains in effect until application for reinstatement is made. In addition to the reinstatement fee, you must pay the appropriate license application fee for your age group.

Each time you are convicted or forfeit bail for a moving traffic violation, points are assessed against your permanent driving record. If you accumulate 8 or more points within any 12-month period, you may be required to attend Traffic Survival School (TSS), or your driving privilege may be suspended up to 12 months (See Page 17).

Points are assessed as follows:

Violation .....	Points
DUI.....	8
Extreme DUI .....	8
Reckless driving .....	8
Racing on highways .....	8
Aggressive driving.....	8
Leaving the scene of accident .....	6
Failure to stop for a traffic signal, stop sign or to yield the right-of-way, causing death.....	6
Failure to stop for a traffic signal, stop sign or to yield the right-of-way, causing serious injury .....	4



Speeding. . . . .	3
Driving over or parking in a gore area. . . . .	3
All other moving violations. . . . .	2

MVD may suspend or revoke your driving privilege or require you to attend and successfully complete an approved TSS if you:

- Have been convicted of frequent, serious offenses which show disrespect for traffic laws and a disregard for the safety of others
- Have been convicted of reckless driving or are a repeat reckless or negligent driver
- Are medically unsafe to drive a motor vehicle
- Have committed or permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of your driver license
- Have been convicted of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or toxic vapors
- Have been arrested for refusal to take or successfully complete a chemical test (alcohol/drug content). The penalty for refusal or unsuccessful completion is a 12-month suspension of your driver license.
- Are under the age of 21 and have been convicted of receiving, consuming or possessing alcohol
- Are under the age of 21 and have been convicted of any illegal drug violation
- Have an unresolved judgment from another state
- Have committed an offense for which mandatory revocation of the driving privilege is required upon conviction

Following the suspension or revocation period of your license, you must pay the appropriate application fee to regain your license. In addition, you may be subject to an investigation and you may be required to file an SR-22 Insurance Certificate.

## Failure To Appear Or Pay Fine For Citation

Your driver license will not be issued or renewed if MVD has been notified that you have not appeared in court for a traffic violation charge. When you are cited for a traffic violation, your signature on the citation is a promise to appear in traffic court. If you fail to appear in court, or fail to pay a fine for a moving traffic violation, the court may direct MVD to suspend your driving privileges. When you have satisfied the court, you may take the court documents to any driver license office to apply for reinstatement of your driving privilege.

## Altered Or Fictitious License

It is unlawful to display any license that you know is canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious or altered. It is also illegal to alter a license or obtain a false driver license. These actions will result in your driving privileges being suspended; you are also subject to possible fines and/or a jail sentence.

## Driving Under The Influence

When you apply for and accept the privilege to drive a vehicle in Arizona, you give consent to testing for alcohol concentration or drug content if you are arrested for driving while under the influence; this is known as the *Implied Consent Law*. The term "alcohol concentration" (AC) refers to the amount of alcohol present in your bloodstream. It is measured by having you submit to a test or tests of blood, breath, urine or other bodily substance.

When a law enforcement officer has reason to believe you have been driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs (DUI), the officer will request that you submit to testing. If you refuse, or if you do not successfully complete the test, your driving privileges will be suspended for 12 months or 24 months for a second refusal within 60 months.



It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drugs to drive or be in actual physical control of any vehicle. If a law enforcement officer administers an alcohol concentration test for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor and finds the AC to be 0.10 percent or more, the person's driving privileges will be suspended and withdrawn immediately.

It should be understood that a driver may be found guilty of driving while intoxicated even though the AC was less than 0.10 percent (0.04 in a commercial vehicle requiring a commercial driver license).

A person under 21 years of age is considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs if there is any alcohol concentration.

There are many conditions that can affect a person's ability to drive even after one drink; for example, body weight, emotional state or physical condition. The best rule to follow is still: If you drink, do not drive.

## DUI Penalties

If you are stopped for driving under the influence and a test shows that you have an alcohol concentration of 0.10 percent or more (0.04 in a commercial vehicle requiring a commercial driver license), you will lose your driving privilege on the spot.

If you refuse to submit to or do not successfully complete any tests when you are arrested for driving under the influence, you will automatically lose your driving privileges for 12 months or 24 months for a second refusal within 60 months.

In addition to any criminal penalties imposed by the court for a second or third offense DUI violation, your driving privilege will be automatically revoked.

## DUI

- First Offense – You will be jailed for not less than 10 consecutive days, fined not less than \$250 and your license will be suspended for 90 days. You will also be required to undergo alcohol screening /education /treatment and may be ordered to perform community service.
- Second Offense – You will be jailed for not less than 90 days, fined not less than \$500 and your license will be revoked for one year. You will also be required to undergo alcohol screening/education/treatment and to equip any vehicle you operate with a certified ignition interlock device, and may be ordered to perform community service.

## Extreme DUI

This category of DUI applies to a person with an alcohol concentration of 0.18 or higher.

- First Offense – You will be jailed for not less than 30 consecutive days with no eligibility for probation or suspended sentence and fined not less than \$250. You will also be required to undergo alcohol screening/education/treatment and may be ordered to perform community service and to equip any vehicle you operate with a certified ignition interlock device
- Second Offense – You will be jailed for not less than 120 days, fined not less than \$500 and your license will be revoked for one year. You will also be required to undergo alcohol screening/education/treatment and to equip any vehicle you operate with a certified ignition interlock device, and may be ordered to perform community service.

## Aggravated DUI

You will be sent to prison for no less than 2 years and, in addition to any other penalty required by law, your license will be revoked for 3 years. You will also be required to undergo alcohol screening/education /treatment and to equip any vehicle you operate with a cer-



tified ignition interlock device, and may be ordered to perform community service.

### Certified Ignition Interlock Device

A certified ignition interlock device is a breath alcohol testing instrument connected to the ignition and power system of the vehicle. The driver blows into the device before attempting to turn the ignition. If the driver's alcohol level is above a certain level, the vehicle will not start. While the vehicle is operating, the driver must blow into the device at random intervals.

## Aggressive Driving

You may be cited for aggressive driving if you commit a series of acts during a single, continuous period of driving that presents an immediate hazard to another person or vehicle, exceed the posted speed limit and commit two of the following violations.

- Failure to obey traffic control signs or signals
- Passing another vehicle on the right side
- Unsafe lane change
- Following too close
- Failure to yield to emergency vehicles

The penalties for Aggressive Driving are:

- First Offense – You will be required to attend a Traffic Survival School course and your license may be suspended for 30 days.
- Second Offense – If you commit a second offense within 24 months, you are guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor and your license will be revoked for one year.





## Test Review Questions

1. When do pedestrians have the right-of-way over motor vehicles? (See Page 37)
2. What is the best way to bring your car out of a skid? (See Page 44)
3. Refusal to submit to the required test to determine the alcohol/drug content of any person operating a motor vehicle will result in...? (See Page 53)
4. Before leaving your car parked on a downgrade, you should...? (See Page 39)
5. What does a flashing red traffic light mean? (See Page 25)
6. What does a green arrow appearing with a red traffic light means? (See Page 25)
7. When you are leaving an alley or private driveway and approaching a sidewalk, you should...? (See Page 36)
8. You have arrived at a red light and intend to make a right turn. Your car is in the right (outside) lane. You should...? (See Page 32)
9. When driving in traffic you should stay far enough behind the vehicle ahead to...? (See Page 50)
10. What does a solid yellow line painted on your side of a highway center line mean? (See Page 30)
11. What are the rights of a person riding a bicycle in the street? (See Page 40)
12. When approaching a school bus that is picking up or dropping off passengers, you must...? (See Page 37)
13. How many days do you have to report a change of address? (See Page 3)
14. What should you do if you have a tire blowout? (See Page 44)
15. What is the speed limit in a residential area? (See Page 37)
16. When is it OK to pass on the right? (See Page 38)
17. When must you use headlights? (See Page 43)
18. What should you do in a dust storm? (See Page 47)
19. When must you use a child safety seat? (See Page 20)
20. How long should you signal before you turn? (See Page 32)
21. Where are your blind spots? (See Page 49)
22. What is aggressive driving? (See Page 55)
23. When can you make a left turn on red? (See Page 33)
24. What is the 2-second rule? (See Page 50)
25. What is the purpose of a diamond-shaped traffic sign? (See Page 27)